

Gibbons requests Anaconda cleanup as priority

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In support of stepping up cleanup efforts at the old Anaconda Mine site west of town, Nevada Congressman Jim Gibbons has requested the site be placed at top of EPA Region 9's list of priorities.

This was outlined in a March 17 letter from Gibbons to EPA Region 9 Project Manager Jim Sickles, which requested the priority status. Jodi Stephens, Reno District Office representative for Gibbons, said this is not a request for the site to be placed on the National Priorities List for Superfund, but rather a request to place cleanup efforts as a top priority on Region 9's to-do list.

In his letter, he noted the March 2005 placement of the cleanup effort under Section 106 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response and Liability Act (CERCLA).

"Since that time, the EPA has done a tremendous job of mitigating the problems associated with the site," Gibbons wrote and goes on to say. "Although immense strides have been made to identify and address potential hazard, there is still much work to be done. It is our belief if the Yerington Mine Site is placed at the top of Region 9's priority list, the cleanup of this site will be expedited in a manner, which will benefit the community of Yerington and the State of Nevada."

In response, the Yerington Community Action Group said many local residents are appreciative of the request.

"In light of greater health concerns due to the recognition of the far reaching effects of the site contaminants, this request is important and it is timely," a information from Group Contact Peggy Pauly said.

In the information, she goes on to highlight the EPA's recent removal of nearly 119 transformers (PCB containers) from the site and the effort to place a temporary cap on fugitive dust prone areas of the site, which is currently underway.

"These are small but important steps and they bring hope to the community that EPA will continue the forward momentum began when EPA assumed control of the site from NDEP (Nevada Division of Environmental Protection) last year," the information says.

Also, the group is thankful to Gibbons' support for the cleanup as well as the long time and continued support of Nevada Sen. Harry Reid.

"The expediting of the investigation and cleanup of the Yerington Mine Site is of great importance for the safety of the residents of the Yerington community, therefore, we (the Action Group) want to send a 'thank you' to Congressman Gibbons."

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